1: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1954 RR1 Siberia RR1

this early period of construction Komsomolsk had a street with the characteristic nickname of 'Street of Accidents', and a whole quarter was known as the 'Fire Settlement' ('Pozharny Posyolok').

Things in Komsomolsk went wrong for several years, and in 1937, when the city celebrated its fifth anniversary, the party authorities thought that the time had come to carry out a large-scale purge among the builders of the 'City of Youth'. One of the most distinguished citizens of the new town, the director of its metallurgical plant, then declared bluntly, 'We are mercilessly rooting out this scum of wreckers'.[19] 'This scum of wreckers' were people whom official Soviet propaganda had previously included among the selfless enthusiastic patriots engaged in self-sacrificing, heroic construction work. To justify the purge the party leadership alleged that 'agents of foreign intelligence services, bandits and diversionists' had penetrated into the ranks of workers and technicians of Komsomolsk, thanks to the complacency of certain leading personalities. According to the official version the 'enemies of the people' at work in Komsomolsk were very active and ingenious. They mixed concrete with sugar so that the degree of its cohesion was lowered, they put glass into ball-bearings to provoke accidents and destroyed vital blue-prints to delay the growth of local industry.

The real reason for the chaos in Komsomolsk was not the criminal activity of wreckers, but the lack of co-ordination between the various state trusts which owned the industrial enterprises in the town-to-be. Each of these trusts constructed a workers' settlement around its plant, and until 1940 there was no over-all building plan for the much advertised town of the Communist Youth League. This explains why sanitary conditions and municipal services were still practically non-existent, even by the outbreak of the Second World War.

The over-all building plan of Komsomolsk which came into being in 1940 provided for a population of 500,000.[20] Although the fulfilment of this aim is still far off, Komsomolsk has become an economic and cultural factor in the Far East. In 1947 the town had 100,000 inhabitants and was the proud owner of two undertakings of all-Union importance, the Iron and Steel Works, 'Amurstal', and a shipyard.[21] Cultural life, too, had developed greatly. The number of schools reached thirty-four in 1947 and forty-five in 1952. In addition, Komsomolsk has a Palace of Culture, a theatre, thirty libraries, a training college for teachers of secondary schools, a music school and four 'parks of culture and rest'.[22] It has tried to keep up its reputation as a 'City of Youth' and is still recruiting young workers from European Russia, particularly from among war orphans.

The second big Komsomol initiative for the settlement of the Far East, the Khetagurova movement, has its roots in the lack of women in the Far East and the necessity to remedy the situation. The well-

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known Soviet writer Pavlenko has referred to this problem in one of his novels in the following words, 'From the polar tundra down to Korea everybody dreams of women. Nowhere else do people get married as quickly as there. Widows do not exist in the Far East. Only the oldest women overcome by senility remain single'. There is a lot of truth in what Pavlenko said. The proportion of women in the population of the Far East diminishes the further one goes east. The 1926 census showed that for every 1,000 men there were 962 women in the area just east of Lake Baikal, 918 in the Amur region, 704 in the Pacific coastal region and 689 on Sakhalin island. This is an abnormal situation, though characteristic of the pioneer stage of colonization activities all over the world.

To make the balance between the two sexes more even, a movement was created designed to bring young girls to the F.E.T. It was associated with the name of an ordinary Soviet citizen, a young woman of twenty-two years of age, Valentina Khetagurova-Zarubina. Khetagurova was the wife of a major serving with the 'Special Far Eastern Army'. Her claim to fame was a letter which she addressed to the girls of the Soviet Union. The letter was published on February 5th, 1937, and is an extremely interesting document.[23] Official inspiration had certainly a lot to do with it, but the letter nevertheless had a personal touch, and in some passages the Russian woman triumphed over the communist official. The needs of the Far East, Khetagurova said, were great. 'We need fitters and turners, teachers and draftswomen, typists and accountants – all to the same degree'. In the event of a war Khetagurova promised different kinds of jobs. Women would then be employed as nurses, radio operators and even as machine gunners. She appealed to the personal pride of would-be migrants to the Far East; 'We want only bold, determined people, not afraid of difficulties'. She described the Far East as an exotic dreamland 'where still a short time ago there were only deer, tigers and lions' and where 'wonderful work, wonderful people and a wonderful future' would meet the girls.

More important than all this was the assurance which Khetagurova gave, not expressly, but by implication, namely, that every girl would find a husband in the Far East and possibly even one holding commissioned rank in the army. She told the girls of Soviet Russia her own personal success story: 'In the autumn I made the acquaintance of Major Khetagurov. My life became fuller and brighter when I became married to him. . . .' The Russian girls could not be told more clearly why they should follow the example of Valentina Khetagurova.

The Khetagurova letter had considerable success. By the end of 1937 as many as 70,000 Soviet girls had registered with the authorities as volunteers for the Far East, and many actually went there. They were called 'Khetagurovki' – Khetagurova girls.

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higher. Since the agents were remunerated on a 'piece rate basis', they were naturally interested in enlisting the largest possible number of people. One can well imagine that the recruiters made use of all sorts of glittering promises and also that they paid little attention to the character and abilities of the prospective Far Eastern colonists. The afore-mentioned Madame Khetagurova who exposed in a Moscow journal this 'recruitment racket', concluded her account laconically: 'And so it happened that quite a lot of scum was sent to the Far East'.[24]

Those consenting to go to the Far East as free workers received upon leaving Moscow or another city of European Russia a special bonus and a maintenance allowance covering the entire long journey from European Russia to their final place of destination. The total amount of bonuses and allowances thus earned might not have meant a great deal to a Western worker, but it was a considerable sum for the impoverished Soviet citizen of the 'thirties.' It was tempting and led to abuses. Quite a number of people cashed the special remuneration, went to the Far East, worked there for a while and got themselves discharged for reasons of health. Having returned to Moscow they let themselves be recruited once more for the Far East by another state trust and the whole game started again from the beginning.

The majority of the voluntary colonists who, up to the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, came to the Soviet Far East established themselves in towns. The two largest cities of the Soviet Far East, Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, therefore grew considerably. Between 1926 and 1939 the population of Khabarovsk increased from 52,000 to 199,000, and that of Vladivostok from 108,000 to 206,000.

As a consequence of the growth of the existing towns and the foundation of new ones such as Komsomolsk, Magadan and Birobidzhan City, the relation between the urban and rural population in the Far East changed to the detriment of the villages. In 1926 only 24 per cent of the population of the Far East lived in towns, but by 1939 over half of all 'Far Easterners' could be classified as 'urban'.

The encouragement of the urban population in the Far Eastern provinces led to neglect of agriculture. During the period of the First and Second Five-Year Plans the area under cultivation in the Soviet Far East diminished by over 20 per cent, from 2,848,000 acres in 1928 to 2,223,000 acres in 1938. Consequently, instead of providing more for the newcomers, the food supply for the Soviet Far East became more dependent on deliveries from areas thousands of miles away. This created an unsatisfactory situation not only from the narrow economic point of view but also from the military which demanded complete self-sufficiency in fuel, raw materials and food. Molotov himself proclaimed the principal of self-sufficiency for the Soviet Far East at the Eighteenth Congress of the Bolshevik Party, in March 1939, and

311 The excess of dampness in vegetation season is a handicap even for agriculture and makes difficult the extension of the cultivated areas. New land for cultivation must as a rule be won laboriously from nature by drying it out. More and more the extended Zeya-Bureya Plain and the area along the Amur have become quite thickly settled, and large parts of the famous "Amur Prairie" have been transformed into cultivated land. It is predominantly Russians who live here. The Chinese who immigrated here earlier have been pushed back over the Amur--in part by force. In all the rest of the area, however, /30/ untamed nature dominates the landscape, which is traversed at most by a few Tungus or Russian hunters. A wealth of gold has lured numerous Russians into this wasteland, too, especially in the area around the upper courses of the left tributaries of the Amur. A locally very active gold industry has come into existence, which today is organized by the state and which has drawn even this distant region into the economy.

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133 The Ussuri country is divided into two completely different parts: the huge mountain mass of the Sikhote-Alin', which fills the entire area from the Bay of Peter the Great in the south to the mouth of the Amur in the north; and the Ussuri-Khanka lowlands, which extend west of the Sikhote-Alin' in the same direction and continue south of the Khanka Lake without marked interruption as far as the Bay of Peter the Great.

The Sikhote-Alin' is a forest-covered, strongly valleyed /zertaltes/ mountain mass, which is divided into several ridges running parallel to the coast. The shapes of the mountains are soft without especially marked edges and projections. More often plateau-like shapes predominate here, too. The heights in general lie between 650 and 850 meters; the valleys, however, are deeply carved out. Rising slowly from the west, the mountain mass descends steeply to the sea and only rarely leaves free a narrow coastal indentation plain on which there arises small, poverty-stricken fishing villages. The nearness of the sea crossed by a cold stream causes a cool, foggy, rainy, unfriendly summer, thus producing similar conditions to those found on the entire coast extending to the north beyond Okhotsk. Swampy valleys and forests dripping with a cool dampness and with a more northern stamp are typical marks of this area.

132 The western side of the Sikhote-Alin' and the Ussuri-Khanka lowlands, on the other hand, correspond more to the Amur 137 country. Warm to hot summers joined with high rainfall and a

strong inclination to marshiness are distinguishing marks for this area. 132, 137
The Sikhote-Alin' stretching parallel to the coast keeps back the coolness and also the fog from the sea and allows the sun to have a stronger effect. Everywhere the more southerly position makes itself apparent. In the forests of Sikhote-Alin' deciduous trees appear more and more in the foreground, increasing toward the south, until finally, in magnificent specimens, they form the sole type of tree.
n the cultivated zone, too, which stretches along the entire lowlands, 311
typically Manchurian-Chinese plants become noticeable in increasing [241]
measure toward the south. Kaoliang and other millet, soya beans, and rice appear noticeably on the scene. There is a change in the 162
population, too. In the northern part of the lowlands, as far as Khanka Lake, Russians and Ukranians predominate; in the extreme south, Chinese and Koreans are in the majority. The Ussuri-Khanka lowland is relatively thickly settled, the Sikhote-Alin' itself, on the [316]
contrary, is in large areas as good as uninhabited, except for some mining areas in the south, where /31/ coal primarily is mined. Native Tungus traverse the Sikhote-Alin' in smaller numbers than in the old days, and in addition there are Russian hunters and Chinese collectors, who are looking for secret, legendary plants.

Sakhalin Island stretches over 950 kilometers in a meridional 131
direction. The southern part is traversed by two parallel mountain ridges, which are separated from one another by a relatively wide depression. The eastern mountain chain is shorter but higher, and its peak of 2,013 meters is the highest elevation on the island. Toward the north the mountain ridges flatten out and give way to a hilly plain. The cool, foggy air masses blow unhampered over the land here, while in the south a difference in climate is caused by the mountain chains. The eastern slopes are cool, rainy and unfriendly, while the western side appears somewhat milder. The southern parts of the island, which were Japanese from 1905 to 1945 and only now have again become Russian, are generally more favorable. In terms of its landscape, Sakhalin can be designated a damp, cool, forested mountain country, but in numerous places treeless moss steppes appear, which recall the tundras of the north. Once feared as a Russian prisoners' colony, Sakhalin is advancing economically more and more because of its petroleum and coal resources.

The Okhotsk coastal area begins at the Uda Bay and encom- 133
passes, in a narrow coastal strip, the Sea of Okhotsk as far as Penzhina Bay in the extreme northeast. In the western part, which stretches

chains traverse it from west to east, and these mountain chains with 133
their spurs in part reach the coast, where they break off sharply. But
this area also does not lack plains, for plains extend from the coast
into the land on both sides of the rivers.

All these areas[1] are either very little settled or are completely 311
uninhabited. Of the Russian coastal settlements only Okhotsk and
Magadan as harbors have a certain importance. Worthy of note is
the reindeer breeding of the Chukchee on the peninsula named after
them.

South of the Anadyr' lowland rises the Koryak Range, which 133
fills the entire area as far as Korff Bay. Some mountain ridges, only
a little separated from one another, traverse the land in a wide arc
from the southern end of the Anadyr' Bay in the direction of the
Kamchatka Mountains. Only near the coast have the rivers dug out [137]
deep valleys; here forest growth appears, while the high areas and
the ridges are covered by pure tundra.

The coast of the Bering Sea has numerous native and Russian [361]
fishing settlements; the hinterland, on the other hand, is occupied
only by small Paleoasiatic remnant peoples, who pursue reindeer
breeding.

Kamchatka Peninsula is one of the most interesting regions
in the Soviet Russian Far East. The relief, which just like Sakhalin
gets its main characteristics from two mountain ridges, is extra-
ordinarily varied, for numerous young volcanos are set on the mount-
ain ridges, and a number of these volcanos are still active. The
Klyuchevskaya Sopka, the highest volcano on the peninsula, rises
from the valley of the Kamchatka River to a height of 4,775 meters
and makes an imposing picture with its ice-capped peak. Because 137
of the abundant rainfall and the mild climate, the plant covering of
the peninsula is very luxurious. On the outer mountain slopes deciduous
forests predominate, only /33/ in the interior of the peninsula do fir-
pine forests appear. The only exception on a larger scale is the west
coast, on which tundra-like moss steppes have developed. In addition 162 361
to numerous Russians who occupy primarily the coastal fishing villages,
the Paleoasiatic Koryak and Kamchadal have remained in the interior.

The volcano belt of Kamchatka continues toward the south
in the island chain of the Kurils, which after World War II went to 133
the Soviet Union along with the southern half of Sakhalin Island.

1 [i.e. the Okhotsk coastal area and the Anadyr' area -- Analyst]

The Russians

563 167 361 The original Cossack settlements formed the basis of the Russian colonization. According to the treaties of Aigun and Peking, the Amur and Ussuri Cossack formations were put next to the Transbaykal Cossack army assigned to the Argun. In the period from 1858 to 1862, 23 such Cossack settlements with 5,000 people came into being on the Ussuri and 75 on the Amur. These Cossack outposts consisted of loosely laid-out villages and also of individual settlements, which were organized in a military fashion for the protection of the border, but which in addition had to maintain themselves economically. For this there was distributed to them large landed property which extended along the Argun, the Amur, the Ussuri and the Suifun along the Chinese border. Successive settlers attached themselves to these strips of settlements, made them more densely populated or extended them. Thus there came into existence, on the one hand, the remarkably long strips of settlements along the border rivers, settlements which extended into the hinterland only where favorable conditions allowed new land to be developed without much work; and, on the other hand, there came into existence among the settlers themselves a certain organization which can be observed in typical characteristics even in recent times. Near the borders on the better land near the rivers sit the old settlers with large pieces of property; mostly these old settlers are descendants of the Cossacks who, after years of fighting, deprivations, and also successes, became enterprising culture pioneers who did not shy from risks, and who represent a powerful, hard, self-conscious race of people. On the other hand, to the side in the interior, mostly on land of slight value, live the the new settlers who came later; they have preserved all the typical characteristics of the East European Russian with his strengths and weaknesses.

563 167 162 Despite various laws favoring emigration of Russian citizens--the first law in this connection was enacted in 1861--/113/ and despite many facilities and much fostering, colonization proceeded only very slowly in the first decades. All recruiting measures had only slight success. The difficult, long land route through Siberia and also the long sea trip frightened many off. Only with the building of the Transsiberian Railway did a stronger stream of immigration begin, and the population east of Lake Baykal was already 1,622,000 by 1911; of these 1,225,000 were Russians and around 20,000 were other Europeans. Of the remaining population of 379,000, the greater part were Buryat, who numbered 205,000, and the remainder was divided between

563 167 162 Chinese, Koreans, and numerous small indigenous peoples. The disorders of the revolution after World War I brought many Russians to the Far East. Planned measures for colonization instituted by the Soviet government contributed to this, and by 1926 the population east of Lake Baykal reached around 2.3 million and had risen to 4,040,000 persons by the time of the last census on January 17, 1939. The increase consisted principally of Russians. By 1939 in the Buryat Mongolian ASSR the Russians had an absolute majority with 52.7 percent (in 1941, 57.2 percent) of the entire population of 542,000. In the Chita region, with a total population of 1,159,500, the number of Buryat and other natives can be estimated at most at 50,000, and in the Khabarovsk and coastal region, with a total of 2,338,100 inhabitants, the percentage of indigenous peoples is only 3 percent.

The main part of the Russians are occupied with agriculture and cattle breeding. In addition, fishing and hunting serve as an additional occupation. The professional Russian hunter, the "Promyshlennik," a real runner type, still hasn't died out. The number working in industry has increased sharply in recent years.

563 361 342 Even here the Russian peasant continues the life he used to lead at home, and he troubles himself here no less than he did there. Accordingly one can often recognize in the type of settlement where the settler came from, even if it was decades and more ago. The Great Russians, especially those from the northern regions, prefer residences on rivers and in wooded areas. Their houses are built in the same block house style of the "izba" they used to live in. Hunting and fishing are very popular with them. The White Russians also prefer wooded areas. The Ukrainians, on the other hand, are mostly better farmers; they are to be encountered in especially large numbers in the Khanka Lake area, which is relatively free of woods, and around Bochkarevo /now: Kuybyshevka/, and they are descended in large measure from Cossacks who had been sent from the Don area. Their houses show the same whitewashed mud walls and are covered with straw like their "khata" in the Ukraine, although there is really no shortage of wood. Although there are often rivers flowing nearby, they dig a well near the house as a rule because well water, as they say, is cooler and more tasty. Woods in /114/ the vicinity of Ukrainian settlements soon are destroyed; the Ukrainian uses not only the axe but also fire against the woods. The Ukrainians are especially successful with cattle raising.

The cities, too, show the usual Russian face. In the center of the larger cities there are, in addition to narrow tenement houses, some

563 also engaged in smuggling gold. In 1900 it came to a catastrophe when the Russian authorities drove all Chinese over the border. At Blagoveshchensk nearly 5,000 perished who were chased with force into the Amur. The building of cities and industry, however, drew them again and again into the country as workers, and many of these remained in the country as settlers or also as frugal artisans. Culturally they have had a very strong influence on the natives, who, like the
[177] Udekhe in southern Sikhote-Alin', have not only taken over the material life of the Chinese but have even given up their language in favor of that of the Chinese. Chinese clothing and the Chinese houses have asserted themselves as far as the Gilyak on the lower Amur and stand everywhere in competition with Russian influence,
[342] which gradually has asserted itself. The Chinese house, the 'fanse,' has mud walls. Its gabled roof is covered with straw. Almost the entire front side is taken up by large windows, pasted over with oil-paper and covered with bars; these windows can be slid out and removed. On the sides and along the back wall there are no windows.
[354] In the interior of the 'fanse' a small stove with an iron boiler lies on each side of the door. Smoke ducts lead from these two stoves under
[352] the sleeping places which built from stone and mud, extend along the walls and fill nearly half the room. This type of plank bed, designated a "kang," is approximately 0.50 meters high. From these the smoke ducts then lead to the chimney, which is likewise made of stone and mud. Because of the danger of fire, the chimney always stands alone and somewhat away from the house. It is not uncommon
[351] for the 'kang' to have its own heating also. The farm buildings are usually attached to the house at right angles, and the square courtyard thus formed is closed off behind by a wall or a fence. The Chinese also like to mark off a rectangular area in front of the house, or to surround their entire lodging with a wall which is often very thick; the natives, however, mostly are satisfied with the house alone, which is often only a wretched, dirty mud hut, whatever the layout.

•[162] Of the 87,999 Chinese who lived in Siberia in 1939, approximately half live in the southern Ussuri region; the remainder are mostly scattered in the cities. The number of women among the Chinese is very slight and amounts to only 6 percent. In the southern Ussuri region, therefore, the number of Chinese-Udekhe half-breeds is large; they are generally designated "tas."

The Korean element in the population is entirely different. Some old villages in the Pos'yet area have existed since time im-

memorial. The immigration of additional Koreans, however, began only after the Treaty of Peking, and in this immigration the southern region was their preferred goal. These Koreans always came with their wives and families, and the majority of them were /116/ farmers. They are a valuable part of the population and show especial skill in growing Manchurian plants such as millet, beans, and rice. In addition, they keep cattle as work animals and pigs. They have succeeded in extending the cultivation of rice to the north as far as the Khabarovsk region. Of the approximately 170,000 Koreans (1939) who live in the Soviet Union, around 100,000 reside in the Ussuri region. A part of the remaining Koreans have been resettled in Turkestan where they live as rice planters on the Syr Dar'ya and the Iliysk.

A few thousand Japanese resided in the coastal cities up until World War I, but since then the number has constantly decreased and amounts now to a few hundred at most.

Worthy of mention as a special group are the Jews, who have their own autonomous region west of Khabarovsk on both sides of the right tributaries of the Amur, the Bira and the Bidzhan. Of the entire population, which number 108,400 (1939), approximately half are Jews, who engage in all vocations and who not only come from the Soviet Union but also from other countries.

In addition there are, scattered over the entire region east of Lake Baykal, Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, Moldavians, Tatar, and others, including Germans; in short there are representatives of all peoples who reside in the Soviet Union. Their total number may be estimated at approximately 20,000 to 30,000.

Distribution, Development, Structure

With the overwhelming vastness of the area and the extraordinarily uneven distribution of the population, figures on the density of population have scarcely any meaning. The main part of the population, comprising about 90 percent, cluster together in a long, extended zone of settlements, which begins at Lake Baykal and stretches along the Amur and Ussuri to Vladivostok. The zone, which is otherwise narrow, attains a greater width in some areas.

In Transbaykal only the river areas of the Selenga and of the Amur are thickly settled, while in between in the area of the Yablonovyy Ridge there is a certain thinning out of the settlements. The valley region of the Selenga, which is occupied primarily by Buryat, attains

161 The data of the censuses from 1926 to 1939 are available for
167 observing the general development of the population. According to these the number of inhabitants in the area east of Lake Baykal has increased from 2.3 million to 4,039,800 inhabitants, i.e. 75 percent. By comparing this with the average increase in population in the Soviet Union, which amounted to 15.9 percent during this period and which can be considered equivalent to the natural increase in the population, it can be deduced that in the eastern region the growth through immigration reached the considerable height of 59.1 percent. The individual areas, however, participate very differently in this increase. The increase in the Buryat Mongolian ASSR reached only 39 percent, but that in the Chita area was 73 percent, and in the Khabarovsk area it was even 136 percent. Since resettlement in the Soviet Union is directed by the state, a tendency is shown here to give preferred treatment to the area farthest from European Russia. The coastal district, however, appears to be an exception, for its population increased only 42 percent during this period.

Development of the Population

	1926	1939	Increase in percent	Increase through immigration in percent
Buryat Mongol ASSR	390,000	542,200	39	23.1
Chita Region	670,000	1,159,500	73	57.1
Khabarovsk Region	606,000	1,430,900	136	120.1
Coastal District	638,000	907,200	42	26.1
Total	2,304,000	4,039,800	57.5	59.1

• 162 /119/ During the same period between 1926 and 1939 a basic change in the structure of the population took place because of the extraordinary increase in the urban part. While the urban part of the population in the Far Eastern region amounted to only 24 percent in 1926, by 1939 it had increased almost to 50 percent. Since Soviet statistics make the concept of urban population equivalent to that of non-agrarian population, a general division by vocation can be deduced from these figures. The Buryat Mongol ASSR has remained predominantly agrarian. The urban share is only 30 percent and even lies below the average for the Soviet Union, which is 32.8 percent. In the three other areas this mean is exceeded and amounts to 44 percent in the Chita region, 45 percent in the Khabarovsk region and even

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51 percent in the coastal district. The increase in the urban section of the population indicates that immigration which formerly served predominantly to foster agrarian colonization, now serves the industrial build-up more.

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The increase in the urban population is made graphic in the growth of cities. In 1939 there was a total of seven cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants; except for Blagoveshchensk, they all increased in size, as follows:

	1926	1939	Increase or decrease in percent
Ulan-Ude	29,918	129,417	+ 347.5
Chita	61,526	102,555	+ 56.7 /sic/
Blagoveshchensk	61,205	58,761	- 4.0
Komsomolsk	---	70,764	---
Khabarovsk	52,045	199,364	+ 283.1
Voroshilov	35,344	70,628	+ 99.8
Vladivostok	107,980	206,432	+ 91.2

Almost a quarter (22 percent) of the entire population of the Buryat Mongol ASSR lives in Ulan-Ude. The city of Chita, however, contributes only 9 percent to the population of the region. Here the urban-industrial population is distributed among numerous places. In the Khabarovsk region the three cities Blagovshchensk, Khabarovsk, and Komsomolsk together comprise only 23 percent of the total population and something more than half the urban part of the population. Komsomolsk is a new establishment as a city and did not exist in 1926. In the coastal district the relations are similar to those in the Buryat Republic. Here around 23 percent of the total population is concentrated in Vladivostok alone. Together with Voroshilov, the two cities together comprise 31 percent of the total population. Apart from Chita, then, all the above-mentioned cities are important population centers which stand in contrast to the vast and thinly-settled regions.

/120/ Urban and Rural Population According to the Census of 1939

	Urban Population	Rural Population	Total
Buryat Mongol ASSR	163,425	378,745	542,170
Chita Region	510,900	648,578	1,159,478
Khabarovsk Region	647,653	783,222	1,430,875
Coastal District	464,509	442,711	907,220

/125/ THE ECONOMY

Agriculture

Among the various branches of the economy agriculture stood in the foreground in 1938. Of the entire population 55.8 percent were attached to agriculture; the percentage of those in agriculture in the various regions was as follows: 162

	rural	urban
Buryat-Mongol ASSR	70 %	30 %
Chita Oblast	56 %	44 %
Khabarovsk Krai	55 %	45 %
Maritime Krai	49 %	51 %

In the interval these relationships have changed substantially. The increase in the total population up to 1950 was 35.6 percent, and the bulk of this was in the industrial sector; accordingly the urban, i.e., the industrial population has a majority today in the entire area of the Far East. Among the various regions the Buryat Mongol ASSR has retained its overwhelmingly agricultural character. The same can also be said of the Amur Oblast newly formed in 1948, though this cannot be verified in figures.

The natural conditions for agriculture are completely favorable 241 in the southern parts of the Far Eastern region. All of Transbaykal lies 132 within the 5° May isotherm, and the Amur Oblast is included in the main in the 10° May isotherm. The brief transition from winter to summer lengthens the vegetation period, which is generally sufficient here. The harsh winter, however, limits cultivation, and accordingly summer cultivation predominates. The rainfall causes difficulties. While a heavier rainfall could be desired for Transbaykal, the rainfall in the Amur and Ussuri regions exceeds the amount necessary, and this results in certain restrictions. The great dampness hampers the ripening of the grain in the fields and fosters the appearance of vermin. Water often remains standing on the flat fields and often leads to the rotting of the plants. Accordingly the Russians are forced to give up European 241 flat cultivation /Flachbau/ in favor of furrow cultivation /Furchenkultur/, in which the grain is sown on heaped up earth so that the water collects in the furrows in the ground and can there seep in or flow off /126/.

The method is used with success everywhere in the Far East by the

361 The city of Vladivostok itself is very narrow in the overall installation. It encloses the "Golden Horn" and also stretches along Amur Bay. A section of the city also lies on the northern end of Russkiy Island opposite the entrance into the "Golden Horn." The hills rising quickly from the coast give an almost southern appearance to the view of the city with its rows of houses rising on the slopes. The main streets as a rule run parallel to the coast. The secondary streets are often so steep that they can be traveled only with difficulty. In contrast to the narrowness of the city and the tasteless apartment houses and business houses crowding the city, the varied, green surroundings, which are decorated by numerous, beautifully situated summer houses, appear especially pleasant. Russians constitute the [162] overwhelming majority of the population, but the percentage of Chinese and Koreans is very significant. In 1926 there were 23,400 Chinese, 7,000 Koreans, and 600 Japanese in a total population of 107,000. The Chinese as a rule are unmarried and work by preference as harbor workers.

361 [255] Vladivostok is not only a harbor city, but it also has developed into an industrial city. In first place here is the fish industry, which, however, is not concentrated solely in the city but rather is distributed over many localities in the immediate and more distant environs of the city. The fish industry is occupied predominantly with the canning of fish and crabs. Numerous fishing collection points along the entire southern coast supply the material. The most important localities lie on bays or on islands. The most important places are Nakhodka, where a railroad line from Suchan ends, Sarubino, and the islands of Popova, Reineke, and Putyatin. In second place is the wood industry, [322] which processes valuable deciduous trees and supplied wood products such as matches, veneer sheets, and furniture. In addition, the city also has flour and rice mills, leather factories and soap boilers. [396] Vladivostok has great importance as a naval harbor and a shipyard, [399] especially for naval ships. There is in addition a plant for constructing airplanes. An oil refinery supplements the entire industrial and [382] transportation economy. Among the numerous scientific institutions in Vladivostok, the branch office of the Academy of Sciences is [815] especially prominent. It has an important share in the exploration of the Far East.

361 322 Apart from this fish industry, which is distributed among numerous localities along the coast, the area around Vladivostok is also rather richly equipped with other industrial installations. Among

137 bamboos (Sasa Kurilensis), which, however, are limited to the western mountain range. This is the only region in the Soviet Union in which bamboo grows wild. In places the bamboo forms a thicket which appears almost tropical and which is difficult to get through.

563 The native population in northern Sakhalin is very small in number and comprises some thousand Gilyak and Orok. The Gilyak 162 reside more at the mouths of rivers on the coast and provide for themselves by fishing and hunting. The Orok occupy themselves principally with the breeding of reindeer; for this they wander as nomads, even though within narrow borders, between the moss steppes in summer and the border regions of the taiga. The number of reindeer is modest.

563 The Russian population in northern Sakhalin has increased 162 many times in number in the last three decades. In 1926 it was estimated to be 20,000, but already before World War II it grew more 361 than 100,000, and since then it has further increased. The population is concentrated essentially in three areas: Aleksandrovsk and the western coastal strip, /281/ which is made prominent economically by its coal mining; then the oil district in the north and on the northeastern coast; and, finally, in the valley of the Tym' and Poronay, which has a smaller percentage of the population. The population 433 here is more agricultural. In general, however, the agrarian economy is still little developed. In the last few years the Soviet administration has striven to ensure food for the industrial population both in the coal oil regions at least in part from local production. To be sure, the areas under cultivation are planted with bread grains, especially in the protected longitudinal valley, where there is a large number of kolkhoz and sovkhoz; however, the production yields only slight surpluses. In the other regions the climatic conditions are too unfavorable to be able to develop cultivation of grain in a grand style here. On 244 the other hand, it is different with the cultivation of potatoes, cabbage, and vegetables. Great successes are to be recorded in this connection. Especially prominent are the high yields of the potato harvests. On the basis of this experience a transition has been made in very recent times--apart from supplying the necessary potatoes for human nourishment--to enlarging the cultivation of potatoes in a planned fashion and to developing the breeding of pigs on a large scale on the basis of this. There are numerous reports of success on this.

361 The capital of northern Sakhalin (the capital of the oblast is now Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk) is Aleksandrovsk, which has approximately 20,000 inhabitants. It is the export harbor of the coal region. The